

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BOMBAY 01197 241508Z
ACTION OPR-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 A-01 /014 W
-----241513Z 022754 /42
R 241057Z MAY 77
FM AMCONSUL BOMBAY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7322
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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STADIS//////////

STATE FOR AA/ALS CONTOS AND DR G.PARSONS

NEW DELHI FOR DCM

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: SEDU
SUBJ: EDUCATION ALLOWANCE

1. I WAS PLEASED TO SEE FROM USIS MESSAGE 14336 THAT DEPARTMENT HAS AGREED TO EDUCATION ALLOWANCE FOR SCHOOLING OF MS MUDD'S CHILD AWAY FROM BOMBAY. I WELCOME OPENING OF ALTERNATIVE OF LOCAL SCHOOLING WHICH MOST PARENTS PREFER FOR K-6 GRADES OR AWAY--SCHOOL ALLOWANCES FOR PARENTS WHO PREFER THAT ROUTE. HOWEVER, I AM DISTURBED BY STATEMENT IN THE USIS MESSAGE THAT, "PREVIOUSLY SCHOOL WAS CONSIDERED ADEQUATE FOR GRADES K-6", BECAUSE THIS IMPLIES THAT SCHOOL MAY NOW BE CONSIDERED INADEQUATE. SUCH A FINDING WOULD FLY IN THE FACE OF STATE DEPARTMENT DEFINITION OF ADEQUACY AS SET FORTH IN STANDARDIZED REGULATION - ALLOWANCE 270 WHICH USES AS MAJOR CRITERION THE PASSING OF CHILD INTO NEXT HIGHER GRADE OF US SCHOOL. IT WOULD ALSO BE COUNTER TO OUR UNDERSTANDING OF DR GORDON PARSONS' FINDINGS AND MOST IMPORTANT, TO VIEWS OF US PARENTS IN BOMBAY WHO HAVE OVERWHELMINGLY FOUND GRADES K-6 ADEQUATE.

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WM TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, ONLY TWO FAMILIES WHO WERE WILLING TO SERVE IN BOMBAY HAVE FELT THAT CATHEDRAL SCHOOL IN THE FIRST SIX GRADES WAS LESS THAN ACCEPTABLE. THEY ARE THE CAYERS AND MS MUDD WHO, OF COURSE, HAS NOT YET LIVED IN BOMBAY. A FINDING OF INADEQUACY WOULD BE CHALLENGED BY MOST OF THE US BUSINESS COMMUNITY HERE WHO PLACE THEIR CHILDREN IN THE CATHEDRAL SCHOOL AND WOULD, OF COURSE,

IMPACT ADVERSELY ON THEIR ABILITY, AS WELL AS ON THAT OF CONGEN,
TO RECRUIT STAFF WHICH HAVE CHILDREN IN GRADES K-6 BECAUSE MOST
PARENTS OF CHILDREN IN THIS AGE GROUP WILL NOT UNDERGO
SEPARATION FROM THEIR CHILDREN WHICH "AWAY FROM POST" SCHOOLING
IMPLIES.

3. FINDING OF INADEQUACY WOULD ALSO SEVERELY INHIBIT LOCAL
AMERICAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY FROM GIVING GRANTS TO THE SCHOOL. THE
ABSENCE OF GRANTS WOULD INEVITABLY DIMINISH THE WILLINGNESS OF
THE SCHOOL TO CONTINUE THE PRESENT PRACTICE OF ADMITTING AMERICAN
CHILDREN TO THE SCHOOL WITHOUT THE COMPETITIVE WRITTEN EXAMI-
NATION WHICH ALL INDIAN ADMITTEES HAVE TO PASS.

4. TO AVOID A STORM OF PROTEST IN BUSINESS COMMUNITY, WOULD
APPRECIATE PROMPT RE-ASSURANCE THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO FINDING OF
INADEQUACY AND THAT WE CAN STILL EXPECT SYMPATHETIC
CONSIDERATION TO OUR REQUEST WHICH IS BEING FORWARDED TODAY FOR A
GRANT FOR THE CATHEDRAL SCHOOL.
COURTNEY

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